

III. METHODS

Archaeological fieldwork began with a comprehensive pedestrian survey of the project area to evaluate the landscape and environmental conditions with regard to the potential for prehistoric and historic resources. Where ground visibility permitted, surface collection was performed. Shovel test pits were excavated in areas where visibility was poor and to test for subsurface deposits in the areas that were surface collected. Surface collection methods consisted of establishing a datum point and laying out transects at 50-foot intervals. Transects, were walked and collections were made at 25-foot intervals. This procedure was followed in Stormwater Management Area 1 where field conditions permitted. After mapping artifact distributions, shovel tests were placed in areas where artifacts were concentrated and in selected areas where no concentration was noted in order to assess resource potential in these areas as well. Shovel tests in all other areas were placed at 50-foot intervals. When a positive shovel test was encountered, four radial shovel tests were excavated at 10-foot intervals in the cardinal directions and extending outward until a negative shovel test was encountered or ground conditions (i.e., standing water) precluded excavation.

All soils from the shovel test pits were screened through ¼-inch hardware mesh to recover artifacts. Shovel test pit depths varied according to soil type, and the tests were terminated once sterile subsoil was reached. Shovel tests were excavated to a minimum depth of 2.0 feet unless water was encountered. Soil depth, texture, color, and hue were recorded using Munsell color charts on standardized forms developed by LBA. Recovered artifacts were provenienced according to Area, Transect, Shovel Test Number, and Stratum designation.